

DRAFT

October 20, 1962

TOP SECRET

Sir:

There is attached a copy of the statement I am making tonight concerning developments in Cuba and the reaction of my Government thereto. A copy of this statement has already been handed to your Ambassador in Washington. In view of the gravity of the developments to which I refer, I want you to know immediately and accurately the position of my Government in this matter.

In our discussions and exchanges on Berlin and other international questions, the one thing that has most concerned me has been the possibility of a miscalculation on the part of your Government of the will and determination of the United States in any given situation, since I have not assumed that you or any other sane man would, in this nuclear age, deliberately plunge the world into war which it is crystal clear no country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences to the whole world, including the aggressor.

At our meeting in Vienna and subsequently, I expressed our readiness and desire to find, through peaceful negotiation, a solution to any and all problems that divide us.

At the same time, I made clear that in view of the objectives

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of the ideology to which you adhere, the United States could not tolerate any action on your part which in a major way disturbed the existing over-all balance of power in the world. I stated that an attempt to force abandonment of our responsibilities and commitments in Berlin would constitute such an action and that the United States would resist with all the power at its command.

It was in order to avoid any miscalculation on your part with respect to Cuba that I publicly stated that if certain developments in Cuba took place, the United States would do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies. Moreover, the Congress adopted a resolution expressing its support of this declared policy. Despite this, the rapid development of long-range missile bases and other offensive weapons systems in Cuba has proceeded. I must tell you that in this case your Government has miscalculated and that the United States is determined to remove this threat to the security of this hemisphere. At the same time, I wish to point out that the action we are taking is the minimum necessary to remove the threat to the security of the nations of this hemisphere. The fact of this minimum response should not be taken as a basis, however, for any further miscalculation on your part.

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I hope that your Government will refrain from any action which would widen or deepen this already grave crisis and that we can agree to resume the path of peaceful negotiation.

Should you carry out your plan to come to New York, I shall be glad to see you at any time.

TOP SECRET

ANNOTATED COPY FOLLOWS

1/2 - only you - ...
Re used copy of message to K
DRAFT

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By 3 dispatches 10/23/62

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept Bulletin
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
By *[signature]* NARS, Date *8/27/74*

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